

I. Introduction and Review: The key to a holy life is to remember who you are in Christ.

II. Does grace encourage you to sin? v. 1-2a

- A. This is an apparently logical conclusion from what Paul has just taught. 5:20-21**
1. If salvation is by grace apart from works, why bother to be holy?
 2. If increasing sin results in abounding grace, why not sin more so that grace will abound all the more? 3:8 II Pe. 3:16
 3. Beware of logical deductions which are not explicitly supported by Scripture.
- B. Only a message of free grace would provoke such an objection. 4:5 3:20 Phil. 3:9**
1. If Paul had been preaching faith plus works or faith plus sacraments, the charge would never have been made.
 2. The true preaching of the gospel will always produce this objection.
- C. People still misunderstand God's grace.**
1. Many object that grace promotes reckless sinning.
 2. Antinomians (against law) abuse grace to promote a libertine lifestyle. Jude 4
 3. Some evangelicals today misrepresent grace.
 4. Some of us can be guilty of making light of sin.
- D. Paul is outraged at the very suggestion that the gospel promotes sin. v. 2a,15 3:4,6**
1. Paul refutes the false conclusion drawn from a true premise.
 2. The gospel of grace promotes not sin, but holiness. Phil. 1:6

III. You can't continue in sin because you are united to Christ. v. 2

- A. The key to holiness is understanding your union with Christ. v. 3, 6, 9, 11**
- B. In what sense did you die to sin? v. 3,4,5,7,8,9,10,11.**
1. Paul is not saying that we are presently in the process of dying to sin.
 2. Nor is he commanding us to put our old nature to death.
 3. Paul is not teaching that we are now completely immune to sin: perfectionism.
- C. You died to sin in union with Christ's death. 6:3,4,5,6,7,8,10,11**
1. Your old self died in the past. It is an accomplished fact.
 2. Your old self died through your representative. Death to sin is not your work
 3. You died *to* sin in the same sense in which Christ died *to* sin. v. 8-10
 4. Your old life is over! v. 6a
 5. This fact is true of every believer, whether he realizes it or not: *a fact not a feeling*
 6. This does not mean that it is impossible for you to sin: perfectionism.
You still battle your fleshly nature. v. 6b, 12-14
 7. It does mean that you cannot continue in a life dominated by sin. v. 2c I Jo. 3:9

IV. Your union with Christ is portrayed in your baptism. v. 3-4

- A. What does Paul mean by *baptism* here?**
1. He cannot be saying that the act of baptism actually unites us with Christ. 5:1 4:5,10 Phil. 3:9 Gal. 3:26-27
 2. Water baptism symbolizes your union with Christ. I Co. 10:2 Ga. 3:27 Co. 2:12

- B. You were united with Christ in His death and burial. v. 3-4a, 6-7 Col. 2:12 Ga. 2:20**
1. You are regarded to have died in the death of Christ. v. 10
 2. Your old self is buried with Christ. I Co. 15:3-4
- C. You were also united with Christ in His resurrection. v. 4b, 8-10**
1. He has conquered sin and death. v. 8-9
 2. Through union with Him, your old life is gone forever and your new life is secure.
 3. Your spiritual resurrection, like Christ's, was a glorious work of God. Eph. 2:1f
 4. It is unimaginable that someone would be united to Him in His death, but not His resurrection. v. 5
- D. Because of your union with Christ you walk in newness of life. v. 4c 8:4 II Co. 5:17
Ezek. 36:26 18:31**
1. The purpose of His death for you was not merely your justification, but your holiness. Titus 2:14 Eph. 2:10 1:4
 - a. Just as surely as Christ rose from the dead, so surely we who are united with Him will walk in newness of life.
 - b. We are both empowered and summoned to live a new life by virtue of our union with Christ.
 2. Before you were enslaved to sin and you were unable to do good. *Not able not to sin.* 6:17 Eph. 2:1-3 Jo. 8:34
 3. In Christ you are freed to serve and please God. Sin is no longer your master. *Able not to sin* 6:18 I Co. 10:13 John 8:36
 4. Every aspect of your life has been made new.
 5. When you are glorified you will be like Christ: *Not able to sin* I Jo. 3:2 Phil. 3:20
- E. What does this text say about our practice of baptism? *Spurgeon: If any persons can give a consistent and instructive interpretation of the text, otherwise than by assuming believer's immersion to be Christian baptism, I should like to see them do it. I myself am quite incapable of performing such a feat, or even of imagining how it can be done.***
1. What mode of baptism best portrays its meaning? Jo 3:23 Acts 8:38 *A burial.*
 2. Who should be baptized?
 - a. Those who are personally united with Christ in His death and resurrection.
 - b. Your baptism is meant to be a memorable experience.
 3. Paul assumes that every believer has been baptized. Mt. 28:19 Acts 2:37-38
 4. Baptism is important.

V. Concluding applications: Answers: for those who are struggling with sin.

- A. Remember who you are.
- B. You can't go back to your old life!
- C. Are you personally united to Christ? II Pet. 1:10

Discussion questions for family worship

1. Why would someone think that the gospel promotes sin? v. 1
2. How do people today misunderstand the grace of God?
3. When did we die to sin? v. 2
4. How does our death to sin keep us from living in sin?
5. How does baptism portray our union with Christ? v. 3-4
6. What is the significance of being buried with Christ?
7. What is the significance of being raised with Christ?
8. How does the meaning of baptism promote a holy life? v. 4b
9. What does this text say about the mode and the subjects of baptism?